

ing spouse, then in equal shares to his child or children, if any; and if he shall leave no surviving spouse or child or children, then in equal shares to his surviving parents, if any: *Provided*, That no payments under this Act shall be made to any other person.

Payments non-assignable, tax-exempt, etc.  
*Post*, p. 812.

SEC. 5. (a) Mustering-out payments due or to become due under this Act shall not be assignable and any payments made to or on account of a veteran hereunder shall be exempt from taxation, shall be exempt from the claims of creditors, including any claim of the United States, and shall not be subject to attachment, levy, or seizure by or under any legal or equitable process whatever either before or after receipt by the payee.

Regulations.

(b) The Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy shall make such regulations not inconsistent with this Act as may be necessary effectively to carry out the provisions thereof, and the decisions of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy shall be final and not subject to review by any court or other Government official.

SEC. 6. As used in this Act—

"Member of the armed forces."

(a) The term "member of the armed forces" means any member of the Army or Navy of the United States, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Coast Guard, or any of their respective components, and any member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps who was discharged under honorable conditions on account of disability.

"Spouse."  
"Child."

(b) The term "spouse" means a lawful wife or husband.

(c) The term "child" includes (1) a legitimate child; (2) a child legally adopted; and (3) a stepchild, if, at the time of death of the member of the armed forces, such stepchild was a member of the deceased's household.

"Parent."

(d) The term "parent" includes father and mother, stepfather and stepmother, and father and mother through adoption.

Funds available.

SEC. 7. Appropriations for the Army and Navy, and the several components thereof, respectively, shall be available for the payments provided by this Act and necessary administrative expenses. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such additional sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Amounts expended hereunder shall be included in the annual reports to the Congress by the Departments concerned.

Reports to Congress.

Short title.

SEC. 8. This Act may be cited as the "Mustering-Out Payment Act of 1944".

Approved February 3, 1944.

[CHAPTER 13]

JOINT RESOLUTION

February 9, 1944  
[S. J. Res. 63]  
[Public Law 226]

Requesting the President to proclaim February 11, 1944, as Edison Day in commemoration of the birthday of Thomas Alva Edison.

Thomas Alva Edison Day.  
9 F. R. 1641.  
*Post*, p. 1126.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating February 11, 1944, as Thomas Alva Edison Day and calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on said date and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies.

Approved February 9, 1944.